

the same sort occur. Except for a few such, however, the botanist who knows the plants of an extended region will approve of all such unions as appear in a necessarily hasty review of the book.

In some few instances, though the editors have evidently done their work anew for this edition, and have not contented themselves with compiling from earlier editions or other sources, defective descriptions or the omission of really crucial characters are noticeable. Thus, the imbricate petals of Anonaceæ are still called valvate; *Potentilla rivalis*, var. *pentandra* is redescribed as having five stamens, whereas the number is usually six or eight, five being very exceptional in the specimens of the Engelmann herbarium and in many that have been examined in the field by Mr. Hitchcock; the petaloid filaments of *Thalictrum clavatum* are called club shaped, etc. Very useful distinctions between *Oxalis corniculata* and its variety *stricta* are afforded by the rhizomes and dichotomous inflorescence of the latter, from which *O. recurva*, which resembles it in some respects, differs in the trimorphic heterogony of its flowers. It might also have been well to note that the blue-flowered flaxes, introduced in the East, belong to two well-marked forms, one of them, which has been separated under the name of *L. humile*, having widely-dehiscent capsules with ciliate septa, the other, with nearly closed capsules the septa of which are not ciliate. The reviewer must also plead guilty to having omitted the very important characters derivable in *Epilobium* from the innovations, which consist of sessile buds in no. 1, of dense rosettes at base of the stem in nos. 4 and 5, of running leafy shoots in nos. 7 and 8, of scaly rhizomes in no. 9, and of filiform bulbiferous shoots in nos. 2, 3 and 10. But whatever little defects may be noticed in one way or another, both amateurs and working botanists, who are concerned with the flora of the northern states anywhere east of the Rocky Mountains, will be grateful for so good a book, and feel disposed to congratulate the editors on the very satisfactory way in which they have brought it out.—

WILLIAM TRELEASE.

OPEN LETTERS.

Deep-water Nostoc.

In the sentence "When Dr. Wolle's 'Fresh Water Algæ' appeared, this Nostoc was not mentioned," in my note in the GAZETTE, November, 1889, p. 291, I referred to the deep-water Nostoc of Lake Michigan. If I had said "Our deep-water Nostoc was not mentioned," I should have expressed my thought more perfectly.

Evanston, Ill.

C. B. ATWELL.

Some more queer botany.

In a letter in this department last year a writer called attention to "some queer botany" which he found in a "doctor-book." If only it could be confined to this class of publications less harm would result than now